

Hon. Richard A. Jones

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

MEGAN MING FRANCIS, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE,

Defendant.

No. 2:19-cv-1317-RAJ

**EIGHTH JOINT STATUS
REPORT**

Pursuant to the Court's April 19, 2021 Scheduling Order, plaintiffs Megan Ming Francis, Matthew J. Connelly, Mary L. Dudziak, Matthew L. Jones, Hiroshi Motomura, Campaign for Accountability, and the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University (collectively, "Plaintiffs") and defendant United States Department of Justice ("Defendant") respectfully submit this Joint Status Report regarding Plaintiffs' Freedom of Information Act request for all Office of Legal Counsel ("OLC") formal written opinions¹ issued prior to February 15, 1994.

As described in the Fifth Joint Status Report, ECF No. 24, the parties agreed to a plan to complete processing of Plaintiffs' FOIA request and resolve this matter. The only remaining issue is Plaintiffs' request for Attorneys' Fees. Defendant has responded to Plaintiffs' fee request and the parties are in the process of attempting to resolve this issue without any further intervention from the Court. The parties propose that they submit either a settlement agreement and stipulation of dismissal or a ninth Joint Status Report advising the Court of any need for further proceedings by June 28, 2021.

DATED: May 28, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Alex Abdo

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¹ As defined in Plaintiffs' FOIA request.

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